



Medical Interpreter Task Force – MITF

A Forum for ASL Interpreters

Lead by MITF members, Theresa Smith (hearing) and Shawn Broderick (Deaf), attendees will learn of the work being done by the MITF and opportunities to promote effective communication during medical appointments.

Problems:

- ◆ The latest information collected from the Health Care Authority shows 100% of Medicaid requests for ASL interpreters are not being filled
- ◆ Professional interpreters are rejecting the current HCA contract
- ◆ Unskilled and unqualified interpreters are working in medical settings
- ◆ Medical providers do not understand their obligation to provide access according to ADA requirements

Possible Solutions:

- ◆ Develop minimum qualification standards for medical interpreters
- ◆ Consider licensure or qualifications requirements for agencies providing ASL services
- ◆ Create a Communication Access Fund (CAF) to assist medical providers in meeting the financial demands of ADA access
- ◆ Seek state solution to separate ASL interpreting services from HCA's interpreter services for Medicaid appointments

MITF statewide meetings are planned for the following dates:

Most meetings will take place 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

*All meetings will be presented in ASL,
no voice interpreters provided*

March 23	Tacoma First United Methodist Church 621 Tacoma Ave S. Tacoma WA Contact: seattle@hsrc.org
April 6	Seattle HSDC-Seattle, Conference Center 1625 19 th Ave. Seattle, WA Contact: seattle@hsrc.org
April 13	Spokane Spokane Community College 1810 N Greene Street, Spokane, WA Building 6, Lair- Upstairs, Conference Rm. Contact: info@hlc-ewa.org
April 20	Vancouver* *Meeting will take place 10 am – 1 pm Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss Oliver Kastel Building 611 Grand Blvd. Vancouver, WA Contact: frontdesk@swcdhh.org
May 11	Bellingham Community Food Coop, Roots Room 315 Westerly Rd, Bellingham, WA Contact: bellingham@hsrc.org

Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing individuals are invited to attend a similar meeting on Friday night to share and document stories related to struggles with effective communication access. In order to create a safe environment for sharing of these stories, ONLY Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing individuals will be allowed to attend the Friday meeting.



This event sponsored by Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
Washington State Association of the Deaf and
Washington State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf